

# TORONTO STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY 2020

## 2017 COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Appendix 1

CD18.4

Appendix 1







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Cover image: Parkdale residents hold Parkdale Solidarity Flags at Parkdale Community Planning Study Launch Event. 2016. Photo provided by the Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust (PNLT). Photo Credit: Margaux Yiu  
The City of Toronto would like to thank Fiona McLaughlin for the design and editing of this handbook, and for her commitment to equity and inclusion through helping to tell the story of residents, community organizations and City staff working together in neighbourhoods to bring about positive change.

# TORONTO STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY 2020: LOCAL IMPACT FOR CITY-WIDE CHANGE

## TSNS 2020:

Advances equitable economic, social, health, environmental and participation outcomes in all neighbourhoods across Toronto, with a focus on 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs). By partnering with residents, businesses and agencies, TSNS 2020 strengthens neighbourhood wellbeing and delivers local impact for citywide change.

## TSNS Mission:

To achieve equitable opportunities across all Toronto neighbourhoods by:

- activating people and organizations,
- activating resources,
- activating neighbourhood friendly policies

## TSNS Vision:

No matter what neighbourhood Torontonians call home, there are equitable opportunities for wellbeing.





## In 2014, Toronto City Council:

- ❑ approved the Urban HEART tool as a method of calculation for Neighbourhood Equity Score and Neighbourhood Equity Benchmark.
- ❑ designated 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs).
- ❑ established a fund to support Emerging Neighbourhoods that received investments through the first Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy, but were not identified for TSNS 2020.
- ❑ approved \$12 million over five years, as part of the Operating and Capital Budget process, to invest in Community Capital infrastructure in the NIAs.

# TSNS 2020 ROADMAP: OUR JOURNEY

## SPRING 2014

City Council approves TSNS 2020

## FALL 2015

**Poverty Reduction Strategy**

funded over 70 Local projects  
across 31 NIAs initiated and  
engaged 9,500 residents

## WINTER 2015

Mornelle Court approved as the 1st  
**Partnership Opportunities Legacy Fund**  
with an investment of  
**\$380,000**

## SUMMER 2015

**Resident Advisory Committee**

developed to advise and monitor  
the implementation of TSNS.  
recruits one resident from each  
the 31 NIAs

## SPRING 2015

**TSNS Conferences** held, 200 local  
stakeholders contribute ideas and  
principles to the development of the  
TSNS Action Plan

**Participatory Budget Pilot** begins  
with an investment of \$150,000 in 3  
areas of the City; Ward 33, Oakridge  
and Rustic NIAs



# WINTER 2016

**TSNS Action Plan** completed and shared with community stakeholders across 31 NIAs

# SPRING 2016

## 15 Neighbourhood Planning Tables

and Action Plans initiated and in development across the 31 NIAs, engaging over 1,700 stakeholders

# FALL 2016

## Neighbourhood Conferences

engaged over 250 community residents and stakeholders in 4 District Summit Events

# 2017

## 2017 Upcoming TSNS 2020

**activities include:** Local Champions Pilot, 2017 Resident Advisory, 2017 POL 2 Launch and more...

# THEORY OF CHANGE

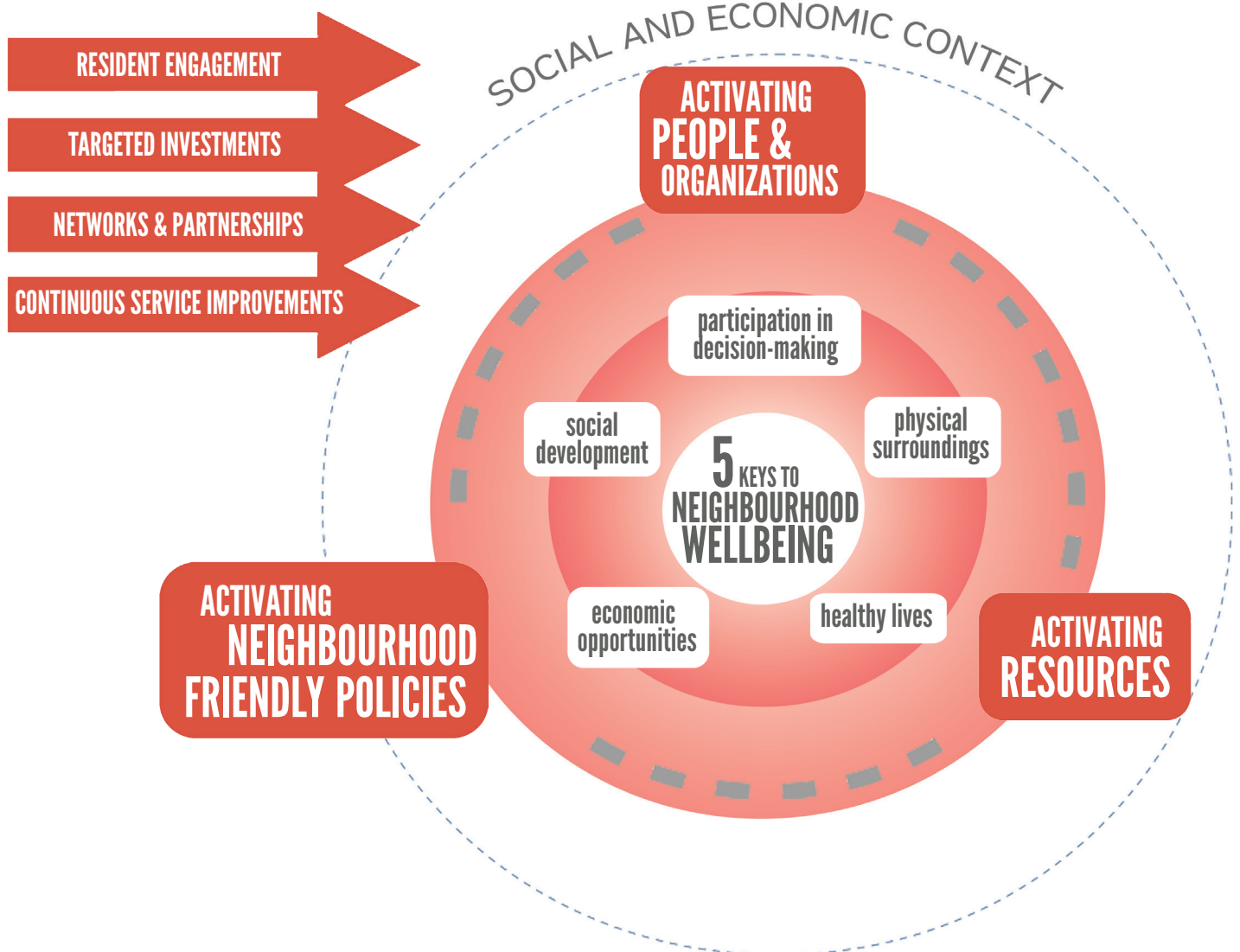
The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (TSNS) 2020 theory of change begins with the recognition that neighbourhoods are complex social and geographic areas where people live and work.

The Urban HEART tool, developed by the World Health Organization and adapted locally for Toronto use, suggests that neighbourhood wellbeing is comprised of five distinct but related themes. TSNS 2020 is based on these themes.

Across the City socio-economic factors are distributed differently across neighbourhoods. This produces place-based inequities. TSNS was created to address these disparities.

TSNS 2020 builds on a theory of change presented by Action for Neighbourhood Change in 2007.

While socio-economic factors affect a neighbourhood's wellbeing there are other factors at play. People, resources, and government policies all play a role. TSNS 2020 seeks to use the





# WHAT MAKES A NEIGHBOURHOOD STRONG?

## Neighbourhood Planning Themes by Urban HEART Domain:



### Physical Surroundings

Hub Development; Urban Farming; Transit Development Community Land Trust; Affordable Housing; Community Kitchen Development; Safety Audits; Access to Recreation, Youth and Outdoor Spaces; POL Applications; Art in Cultural Spaces



### Economic Opportunities

Job Creation and Recruitment; Job Skill Development and Training; Financial Literacy and Money Management; Green Jobs; BIA Partnerships; Food Sector Training: Smart Serve, First Aid and Certification; Foreign Trained Access to Employment



### Healthy Lives

Health, Wellness and Nutrition Programs; Food Access and Enterprise Initiatives; Early Development Education Programs; Urban Farming; Mental Health Supports



### Social Development

Service Mapping and Information Fairs; Networks and Partnerships Development; Local Forums and Conferences; Youth Engagement and Mentorship; Social inclusion and Arts: Barber Shop Movie Nights, Murals; Education, Science and Technology Programs for Youth; Resident Engagement and Leadership



### Participation in Decision-making

Local Resident Leadership and Advisory Group Development; Youth Leadership Initiatives; Engaging Ethno-cultural Communities; Civic Education: Access to Community and Council

# TSNS 2020 KEY ACTIVITIES

## Partnership Opportunities Legacy Fund 2 (POL 2)

The Partnership Opportunities Legacy Fund 2 (“POL 2”) funds community infrastructure projects developed by local community-based partnerships. Through creative and opportunistic partnerships, this fund will leave a lasting legacy by providing sustainable and tangible changes to the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) that would otherwise not be possible.

## Funders Table

The funders table was developed in collaboration with the United Way of Toronto and York Region with the goal of ensuring that federal, provincial, and local funding priorities were informed by a neighbourhood perspective. Since 2015, 13 funding organizations have participated in the Table.

## Resident Advisory Committee

Building on the work of our 2015/16 interim advisory, in 2017 a new committee has been recruited representing 31 NIAs and Emerging Neighbourhoods.

## Participatory Budgeting Pilot

Participatory Budgeting Pilot (PB) involves community residents proposing and voting on projects to improve their Neighbourhood. PB continues in 3 areas of the City including the Rustic and Oakridge NIAs. Residents in each neighbourhood will have an opportunity to vote on capital projects up to \$250k in value.

## Local Champions Pilot

This is a post-secondary certification/credit training pilot program for residents from NIAs, Lead by Scarborough Storefront, to build resident leadership, involvement and decision-making while advancing the goals of TSNS 2020 and the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

## District Neighbourhood Conferences “Summits”

In fall 2016 four district wide events were held to promote engagement of residents and other stakeholders involved in neighbourhood planning, TSNS 2020 activities, and local initiatives. Over 250 residents, community partners and stakeholders attended the summit events.

## Community Hub Development

Community hubs provide increased access to services and community space for residents. TSNS 2020 is presently supporting working with the United Way of Toronto and York Region, City Divisions, other levels of government and community organizations to invest in community hub development at locations across the city including 1652 Keele St., Thorncliffe Park, Dawes Road, and Wards 3 and 4.



# TSNS 2020 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Resident Engagement

Resident engagement is the most important activity area for the implementation of TSNS 2020. The participation, voice and decision-making of residents to create local actions ensures the strategy will lead to equitable outcomes for Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

## Targeted Investments

TSNS 2020 targets resources and investments to the 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas. Investments like new playgrounds, programs, events or enhanced services have an immediate impact on the quality of life of local residents.

## Partnership & Network Development

TSNS 2020 supports network and partnership development across multiple sectors and multiple levels of government, to leverage resources, promote collective impact and link local and global community concerns. Whether we work together in Neighbourhood Action Partnerships, networks or coalitions, the end result is positive change for local communities.

## Continuous Service Improvements

TSNS 2020 focus on neighbourhoods involves the improvement of services for NIAs. By including the neighbourhood perspective in City programming and planning, the strategy aims to improve the wellbeing of communities.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

Evaluation is an important component of effective program planning and service delivery. TSNS 2020 will monitor at the local and city-wide level to ensure accountability and demonstrate the value of program investments.

# RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

**24,000** RESIDENTS ENGAGED  
since 2015 through local actions

# LOCAL CHAMPIONS PILOT

certification program for residents of NIAs and Emerging Neighbourhoods

**24** RESIDENTS

recruited from 31 NIAs advising TSNS 2020 implementation through the **RESIDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**400** COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

engaged in 6 Community Conferences

## TSNS 2020

**21** CITY DIVISIONS

engaged in TSNS 2020 implementation

**TSNS 2020 ACTION PLAN DOCUMENT**

developed through resident input to guide process

# CONTINUOUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

**4** DIRECTOR CHAMPIONS

to lead 4 District Staff Teams working together to improve access to service



# TARGETED INVESTMENTS

**\$600,000**

invested over 2 years that engaged residents and stakeholders through the **EMERGING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND**

**9,500** RESIDENTS ENGAGED

and 74 projects initiated through

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY**

**\$6,498,000**

invested and 23 local capital projects funded through

**PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES LEGACY FUND**

## 0 SNAPSHOT

**15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING TABLES** initiated and in development across 31 NIAs

**13 FUNDERS ENGAGED**

Funds identified for investment in NIAs through the **FUNDERS TABLE**

**1,700** PARTNER ENGAGED STAKEHOLDERS

engaged at 15 local network, Neighbourhood Action Partnerships

# PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKS

# RESIDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Resident Advisory Committee (RAC) works with City staff throughout the implementation of TSNS. The RAC consists of residents who live in the NIAs and was established in the summer of 2015. An interim RAC has met bi-monthly to advise staff on local planning issues, ensure accountability, and advise on the structure of the RAC.

## THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RAC

JOSHUA BARNDT ANTONIUS CLARKE  
 LAURA HAMMOND MARGARET SAMMY  
 ELIANA TRINAISTIC FEROZA MOHAMMED  
 SHUKRI ABDULLAHI NAHID SHARIF  
 JOSEPH GENNARO MICHELLE MINOTT  
 MALARAVAN BALACHARAN JOY SIMONE SMITH-BROWN  
 FAZILATUN NESSA BABLI AAMIR SUKHERA  
 MANJURA REHMAN NICOLE TELESFORD  
 BUTTERFLY GOPAUL SARAH ALI  
 NATHAN STERN SUREYA IBRAHIM  
 LUISA GIACOMETTI MUSSARAT EJAZ  
 REHANA ROBIN

# MEET SOME OF OUR RESIDENT ADVISORY CHAMPIONS

## Fazilatun Nessa Babli

"I feel honoured and proud to have been an advisory member of TSNS 2020. Through this platform, I was able to exchange ideas about community building and contribute to a collective voice. I was able to learn about assessing needs, planning, designing and implementing processes to help bring positive changes to my NIA of West Hill/Kingston/Galloway Orton Park."



## Feroza Mohammed

"My experience on the advisory is impacted by networking with diverse neighbourhoods, to learn and share information on strengthening local communities. Residents are invited to identify priorities, and inform how we can work collectively with the city and its partners to access supports in shaping and building an equitable city."



## Laura Hammond

"Being on the Resident Advisory Committee has been extremely inspiring. I truly enjoyed getting to meet other residents from across the GTA who share a like-minded passion for their community. It has been extremely helpful to learn about their initiatives and gain insight on how they worked through common challenges."



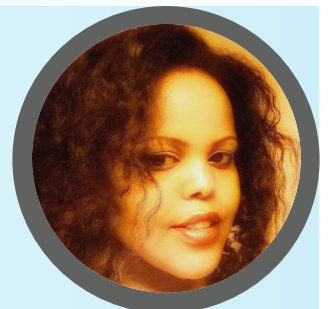
## Nathan Stern

"Being a part of the TSNS 2020 Resident Advisory Committee opened my eyes to the great work and learnings that could be taken from other NIAs. Through connecting with other community leaders across the city I was able to bring back information that was helpful for committees and groups that I supported."



## Sarah Ali

"My experience with the Resident Advisor Committee was very informative and educational. I was able to meet other residents from different neighbourhoods and how they work to make their community strong. I sit on many committees, but by far the most important is the Resident Advisor Committee, to ensure that information gets to the right City department from the residents themselves."





# NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIONS

## TSNS 2020 DISTRICT STRUCTURE

We recognize that challenges and solutions to identified community issues may involve more than a single neighbourhood. We have created TSNS 2020 District Staff Teams to support planning for larger geographic regions of the City.

Currently there are 4 teams that support 4 TSNS 2020 Districts. These teams are composed of management staff from City agencies, boards, commissions and divisions. Each City partner contributes and collaborates to address issues identified at the local level. The District Teams are an important link between the local neighbourhood planning and central decision-making at City Hall.

Each District Team is Chaired by a Director from one of 21 City partner agencies, boards, commissions, and divisions. District Director Champions are:

- ❑ North District: Nicole Welsh, Toronto Public Health
- ❑ South District: Mary-Anne Bedard, Shelter Support and Housing Administration
- ❑ West District: David Jollimore, Office of Chief Corporate Officer
- ❑ East District: John Schaffter, Human Resources



# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING TABLES

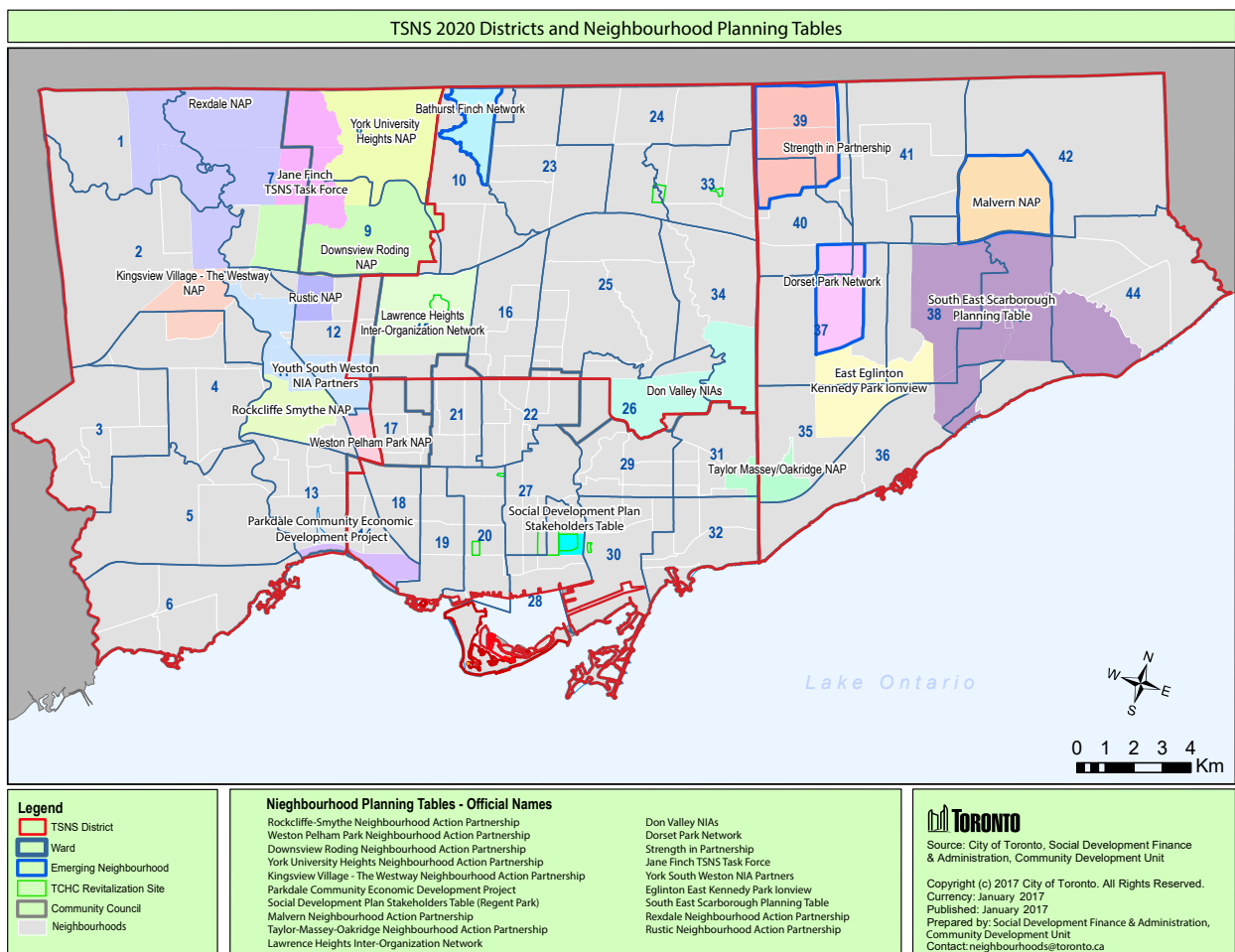
## WHAT A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING TABLE DOES

TSNS 2020 Neighbourhood Planning Tables are a place-based planning approach that involves residents, community agencies, local businesses, City Councillors and City staff who work in the Neighbourhood Improvement Area meeting regularly to identify local priorities, plan solutions and create partnerships for a strong neighbourhood.

Currently over 1700 local stakeholders are engaged through local planning tables and community networks connected to the implementation of TSNS 2020.

To date 15 Neighbourhood Planning Tables have been identified across 31 NIAs. Although they may be referred to as Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs), networks or coalitions, Neighbourhood Planning Tables are open to everyone in the neighbourhood who wishes to participate in priority setting, planning and taking local action for neighbourhood wellbeing.

Each table is supported by a Community Development Officer from the City who assists the implementation of plans.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING TABLE: EGLINTON EAST KENNEDY PARK IONVIEW

## Neighbourhood Improvement Areas:

- #124 Kennedy Park
- #125 Birchmount Eglinton East (Ionview)
- #138 Eglinton East

## Councillors and Wards:

- Ward 35 - Councillor Michelle Hollard
- Ward 37 - Councillor Michael Thompson
- Ward 38 - Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker

## Priority Actions:

- ❑ Physical Surroundings: Initiated POL2 building projects of over 1.46 million dollars towards upgrades to community spaces and outdoor recreation facilities at 1021 Birchmount Rd., Gilder Drive Outdoor Recreational Area, Ionview Park, and the Allied Neighbourhoods Community Teaching Kitchen.
- ❑ Participation in Decision-Making: Connected with 500 residents in a 4 month period through community outreach to promote and inform residents on local services while recruiting for the local planning table.
- ❑ Healthy Lives: 2,400 residents engaged in nutrition, safety and wellbeing activities: Home Alone Course; Cooking for Kids; Social Media Workshops; Support for Community Gardens; First Aid Training.

## Community Development Officer:

Janvere Lyder  
647-216-2152 janvere.lyder@toronto.ca

## A Neighbourhood Story:

“This year has been an amazing and very positive one for the Gilder community with the launch of the GUYDE Center (Gilder United Youth through Dedication and Education). The GUYDE Center is a youth center for the youth of Gilder. We launched a breakfast Club with the Toronto Children’s’ Breakfast Club in September that is currently running during the weekdays”  
- Nadra Abdihakim and Annmarie Grey, Residents and Founders of GUYDE



## Community Quote:

“The residents of our neighbourhood, particularly the school children and seniors will benefit greatly from this wonderfully improved space. Breathing life into this under-utilized green space will have a positive impact on the social integration in this diverse community for years to come. Thank you!”  
- David Speicher, Ionview Park Revitalization